

## **City General Purpose Recipient, Major Donor and Independent Expenditure Committees**

### **Questions and Answers**

1. *If a major donor/independent expenditure committee filed a statement by July 31 covering the first six months of the year and makes no other contributions or independent expenditures during the second six months of the year, must it file a semi-annual statement by January 31?*

A: No.

2. *Last year, a major donor contributed to candidates running in state elections. This year, the major donor is making contributions only to city candidates. Where are the major donor statements filed this year?*

A: A major donor committee terminates at the end of each calendar year. City major donor committees only file statements with the city's filing officer regardless of where the committee filed reports in a prior year.

3. *Must a general purpose committee file a preelection report if it makes contributions to other general purpose committees, or is the report required only if contributions are made to candidates or ballot measure committees being voted on in the city election?*

A: A pre-election report is required if the committee makes contributions or independent expenditures totaling \$500 or more to support or oppose **any** candidates, ballot measures, or committees during the preelection reporting period.

4. *Must a city committee that contributes to city candidates or ballot measure committees in another city file preelection statements in connection with that city's election?*

A: No. However, a city committee that makes contributions in connection with other elections may no longer qualify as a city committee. The committee's status may change to a county or state committee depending upon the committee's activity. Contact the FPPC for guidance.

5. *Must a Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Form 465) be filed if an independent expenditure supports or opposes multiple candidates?*

A: Yes, but only if \$1,000 or more was expended to support or oppose each candidate identified in the communication. A separate Form 465 must be filed for each candidate supported or opposed.

6. *If an individual or business entity becomes a major donor or independent expenditure committee during the late reporting period (16 days before an election), when are reports required to be filed?*

A: A contribution or independent expenditure made during the late reporting period may trigger both qualification as a committee and the late reporting requirement. For example, the Smith Corporation contributes \$10,000 to a ballot measure committee 10 days before the election in which the measure is on the ballot. The corporation must file a late contribution report within 24 hours and a Major Donor/Independent Expenditure Committee Campaign Statement (Form 461) on the next semi-annual filing deadline.

7. *Must a state major donor/independent expenditure committee that makes a late contribution or a late independent expenditure in connection with a local election file a report with the local filing officer?*

A: The late contribution report is filed in the same locations that the major donor/independent expenditure committee files its regular campaign statements. Late independent expenditure reports are filed in the local jurisdiction.

8. *Must a state or county major donor/independent expenditure committee that contributes to a local candidate file preelection statements in connection with the local election?*

A: No. State and county major donor/independent expenditure committees do not file regular preelection statements (Form 461) regardless of their activity at the local level. However, depending on the amount and timing of independent expenditures made to support or oppose a local candidate or ballot measure, the Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Form 465) may be triggered on a local preelection filing deadline.